

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2618
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2000
EMPLOYMENT VISAS
SURESH KODIKUNNIL

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether UAE and some of the other Gulf countries have imposed any ban on employment visas for Indians;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action being taken by the Government in the matter?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) Yes, sir.

(b) There is restriction on the recruitment of unskilled, semi-skilled workers and skilled workers from India to UAE. However, this does not apply to recruitment of professionals. Saudi Arabian authorities have not imposed any ban on employment visas for Indians and recruitment of Indians for employment continues as before.

(c) Our Ambassador has met the Minister of Labour and also had separate meetings with Under Secretary (Labour) to understand the rationale behind the steps taken by the UAE Government. The UAE Government has explained that they have taken this step because of demographic imbalance caused by disproportionate expatriate population as compared to the national population; and to mop up excess supply of labour which has been caused by import of labour by companies in collusion with unscrupulous agents in countries of recruitment for projects which are non-existent. The UAE Government have clarified that on case-by-case basis recruitment is still being cleared from India.